



Aquatic and  
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The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor, New York State  
NYS Capitol Building  
State St. and Washington Ave.  
Albany NY 12224

February 18, 2021

RE: Owasco Lake Watershed- Revised Rules and Regulations

Copies to: Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand  
Representative John Katko  
NYS Senators Mannion, Oberacker, Helming, and May  
NYS Assembly Members Lemondes, Manktelow, and Kelles

Dear Governor Cuomo,

I am writing to urge adoption of the proposed revisions to the Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations. I am an environmental scientist; my firm EcoLogic, LLC has been working with Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development since 2014 on initiatives to restore and protect Owasco Lake. The rules and regulations that are now before the NYS Department of Health reflect years of sustained effort and intensive collaboration among key stakeholders. Collectively, the Owasco Lake watershed community has embraced the concept of ecosystem-based management adopted by your NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. To that end, the proposed watershed rules and regulations balance our human requirements for safe potable water, recreational opportunities, and working landscapes to produce food and timber with our obligation to protect ecosystem health of this central Finger Lake. The process to revise the rules and regulations included extensive public outreach and active participation from key sectors.

The challenges that Owasco Lake is facing are not unique. Climate change is warming the waters, affecting winds, and altering mixing processes. The frequency of extreme rainfall and runoff events has dramatically increased, washing pollutants from the landscape into waterways. Invasive species alter nutrient cycles and increase the risk of harmful cyanobacterial blooms. Your administration has provided essential technical and financial support for emergency measures to protect the quality of drinking water drawn from Owasco Lake, as well as for longer-term planning initiatives (HABS Action Plan and Nine Element Plan). The proposed watershed rules and regulations will ensure that the regulatory framework and flexibility are in place to ensure that Owasco Lake continues to support its myriad of ecosystem services. Thank you for your continued efforts to provide resources to the community for addressing the technical and financial challenges of watershed stewardship.

Very truly yours,

Elizabeth C. Moran, Ph.D.  
President, EcoLogic LLC